

# Case-Ex: Selfless Service

## Splash Opening:

*(Bolded text is displayed in the Army Values introduction video)*

**Selfless Service: Put the welfare of the Nation, the Army and your subordinates before your own.**

The Army Value of Selfless Service represents our willingness to endure and sacrifice much despite obstacles and challenges. We serve a greater purpose and sacrifice for each other because of our love for our country, family, fellow Soldiers and for freedom.

**Objective: Understand the Army Value of Selfless Service and how to live it as a Soldier.**

What does it mean to serve “selflessly?”

- **Placing duty before personal desires**
- **Promoting and helping others**
- **Volunteering**
- **Putting your own interests aside**
- **Committing to others**
- **Being glad when others succeed**

As Soldiers, we are often seen as the standard of Selfless Service—sacrificing our way of life so that others may live in safety and security. Starting with our decision to join the military, we have chosen to be selfless. We must continue this Selfless Service throughout our careers, from sacrifice on the battlefield to serving in our homes.

- **What does Selfless Service mean to you personally?**
- **How is this different from the way that you thought about Selfless Service before you joined the Army?**

## Army Values Case-Ex: Selfless Service (continued)

### Case-Ex: Selfless Service – Army Values (PFC Breland)

*(Bolded questions are included in the Case-Ex video interface)*

#### **Part 1:**

PFC Breland describes how her Battle Buddy is struggling with her running in Basic. Her Battle Buddy is falling back on group runs and not performing well on the APFT 2-mile run. Some of their peers have said that they do not want to help because they are already tired from their own runs.

#### *Recognize the ethical dilemma*

1. What is PFC Breland's Battle Buddy's difficulty?
2. **What challenge is PFC Breland facing with her Battle Buddy?**
3. **Other Soldiers in the unit refuse to help. What effects does this lack of Selfless Service have on a team or unit?**
4. How aware was PFC Breland that she had been confronted with an ethical decision?

#### *Examine options through the ethical lenses*

5. **Could there be a justification for not helping the Battle Buddy? How so?**
6. What are PFC Breland's options?
7. What rules or regulations apply to PFC Breland's actions towards fellow Soldiers?
8. What could be considered the right action and attitude for PFC Breland?
9. How should PFC Breland evaluate her options?
10. What external resources should PFC Breland consider as part of her solution?
11. Describe the definition or standard for Selfless Service as PFC Breland displays it. How is this consistent with the Army's definition?

#### *Commit to a Decision*

12. How might PFC Breland's own struggles impact her decision to help her Battle Buddy?
13. Would it be easier to just ignore this situation and take no action?
14. What might limit PFC Breland's ability or motivation to take action?
15. How much should PFC Breland be willing to help? At what cost?

#### *Act*

16. Should PFC Breland's actions focus on her Battle Buddy or on her peers? How are they different?
17. Could PFC Breland justify taking no action? How so?

## **Army Values Case-Ex: Selfless Service (continued)**

### **Part 2:**

PFC Breland describes how she motivated her Battle Buddy and took the time to run with her and help her to improve. She discusses how giving of her own time and energy gave her a sense of accomplishment.

1. **How does PFC Breland demonstrate Selfless Service?**
2. **Why is it important that Soldiers demonstrate Selfless Service for each other? For the American people?**
3. **When you volunteer or help, how does this inspire others?**
4. **What other Army Values do you see in this scenario?**
5. Why does PFC Breland say that it's worth it to help someone out?
6. How has PFC Breland carried her attitudes and actions over to her new duty station?
7. How does serving others help us to better serve the Nation?
8. When you volunteer or help, how does this inspire others?
9. How can an experience like this change our attitudes?
10. Are there any Army Values in conflict in this scenario? Which ones?

## Army Values Case-Ex: Selfless Service (continued)

### Case-Ex: Selfless Service – Garrison/Off Duty (SSG Spaid)

*(Bolded questions are included in the Case-Ex video interface)*

#### **Part 1:**

SSG Spaid describes one of his Soldiers who was having a hard time after deployment. The Soldier has resorted to drinking. One night SSG Spaid receives a phone call that he had tried to jump off a balcony while drunk. Someone needs to go to the ER to sit with him and the MPs until he sobers up. SSG Spaid has already signed out on leave.

*Recognize the ethical dilemma*

- 1. What challenge has SSG Spaid identified?**
2. How aware was SSG Spaid that he had been confronted with an ethical decision?

*Examine options through the ethical lenses*

- 3. What personal issues does SSG Spaid consider when deciding how to respond to the phone call?**
- 4. How should Soldiers balance family needs with supporting Soldiers in their unit?**
5. What options could SSG Spaid be considering in how to respond?
6. What possible outcomes might result from how he chooses to respond?
7. What rules or regulations apply to SSG Spaid's actions toward the inebriated Soldier?
8. How should he evaluate his options?
9. What external resources should SSG Spaid consider as part of the solution?

*Commit to a Decision*

10. What factors might influence how SSG Spaid responds to his Soldier? Do any of these factors indicate what "the right" decision is?
11. Would it be easier just to ignore this situation and not take action?
12. What might be limiting SSG Spaid's ability to take action?

*Act*

13. Should SSG Spaid be focused on getting to his family on leave or responding to the Soldier's situation?
14. Besides his Soldier, who will be impacted by SSG Spaid's actions?

#### **Part 2:**

SSG Spaid relates back to his actions—for him, it was an easy decision. He describes the conclusion of the evening and how the Soldier needed help and counseling. SSG Spaid discusses the impact on his wife and how sometimes the family has to "come second."

- 1. How does SSG Spaid demonstrate Selfless Service?**

**Army Values Case-Ex: Selfless Service**

## **Army Values Case-Ex: Selfless Service (continued)**

2. **What possible negative impacts may result if Soldiers do not display Selfless Service?**
3. **How might this experience motivate SSG Spaid to demonstrate Selfless Service more in the future? How would you demonstrate Selfless Service more in the future?**
4. **What other Army Values are displayed in this scenario?**
5. How did SSG Spaid's choices indicate his willingness to share burdens? To serve a greater purpose?
6. What was SSG Spaid's attitude toward the Soldier? Does he think he could have helped him more?
7. How can one experience like this change our attitudes?

## Army Values Case-Ex: Selfless Service (continued)

### Case-Ex: Selfless Service – Combat (SSG Bell)

*(Bolded questions are included in the Case-Ex video interface)*

#### **Part 1:**

SSG Bell describes a mission in Afghanistan when his Company was ambushed. The unit is moving toward an Afghan village together with their Afghan National Army comrades. While moving through a valley, they are ambushed and begin to withdraw. Two Afghan Soldiers are left behind, and one of them is wounded. SSG Bell spots them trying to move back under fire.

*Recognize the ethical dilemma*

1. **What challenge and decision does SSG Bell face?**
2. How aware was SSG Bell that he was confronted with an ethical decision?

*Examine options through the ethical lenses*

3. **What are the implications if he helps the Afghan Soldiers? If he does not?**
4. **What are all the factors that could influence SSG Bell's decision?**
5. **Why is it important that a Soldier's sense of Selfless Service extends beyond his unit?**
6. What are SSG Bell's options?
7. Does he have any clear options?
8. What rules or regulations apply to SSG Bell's actions toward the Afghan Soldiers?
9. What could be considered the right action and attitude for SSG Bell?
10. How should he evaluate his options?
11. What external resources should SSG Bell consider as part of the solution?

*Commit to a Decision*

12. Would it be easier just to ignore this situation and not take action?
13. What might be limiting SSG Bell's ability to take action?

*Act*

14. Should SSG Bell be more concerned about the Afghan Soldiers or his own unit (and himself)?
15. Once SSG Bell has made his decision, what factors could stop him from following through?

#### **Part 2:**

SSG Bell relates that he grabbed the ATV and moved through the kill zone to pick up the ANA Soldiers. They make it safely back, and that night the ANA Commander invites the US Soldiers over for dinner. SSG Bell discusses the mission impact of his decision and how relations between his unit and the Afghan forces improved.

**Army Values Case-Ex: Selfless Service**

## **Army Values Case-Ex: Selfless Service (continued)**

1. **How are SSG Bell's actions consistent with the Army's definition of Selfless Service?**
2. **How did SSG Bell's actions serve a greater purpose? How did he put the mission first?**
3. **What effects will SSG Bell's displays of Selfless Service have on the rest of the team?**
4. **What other Army Values did you see displayed in the scenario?**
5. Describe the definition or standard for Selfless Service that SSG Bell gives. How is SSG Spaid's definition of Selfless Service consistent with the Army's definition? How is it consistent with his actions?
6. How might this experience change SSG Bell's attitudes and actions in the future?
7. What Army Values are in conflict in this scenario? How so?